



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6590

LCO No. 3188

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING VICTIM SERVICES ADVOCATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46b-122 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 All matters which are juvenile matters, as defined in section 46b-
4 121, shall be kept separate and apart from all other business of the
5 Superior Court as far as is practicable, except matters transferred
6 under the provisions of section 46b-127, which matters shall be
7 transferred to the regular criminal docket of said Superior Court. Any
8 judge hearing a juvenile matter shall, during such hearing, exclude
9 from the room in which such hearing is held any person whose
10 presence is, in the court's opinion, not necessary, except that in
11 delinquency proceedings any victim of the delinquent act, the parents
12 or guardian of such victim and any victim services advocate appointed
13 pursuant to section 54-221 shall not be excluded unless the judge
14 specifically orders otherwise.

15 Sec. 2. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 54-203 of the
16 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

17 thereof:

18 (6) To apply for, receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of
19 funds made available by the United States, by the state, foundations,
20 corporations and other businesses, agencies or individuals to
21 implement a program for victim services which shall assist witnesses
22 and victims of crimes as the Office of Victim Services deems
23 appropriate within the resources available and to coordinate services
24 to victims by state and community-based agencies, with priority given
25 to victims of violent crimes, by (A) assigning, in consultation with the
26 Division of Criminal Justice, such victim services advocates as are
27 necessary to provide assistance; (B) administering victim service
28 programs; and (C) awarding grants or purchase of service contracts in
29 accordance with the plan developed under subdivision (15) of this
30 subsection to private nonprofit organizations or local units of
31 government for the direct delivery of services, except that the
32 provision of training and technical assistance of victim service
33 providers and the development and implementation of public
34 education campaigns may be provided by private nonprofit or for-
35 profit organizations or local units of government. Such grants and
36 contracts shall be the predominant method by which the Office of
37 Victim Services shall develop, implement and operate direct service
38 programs and provide training and technical assistance to victim
39 service providers.

40 Sec. 3. Section 54-220 of the general statutes is repealed and the
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

42 (a) Victim services advocates shall have the following
43 responsibilities and duties: (1) To provide initial screening of each
44 personal injury case; (2) to prepare victim impact statements to be
45 placed in court files; (3) to assist victims by providing information
46 needed for more effective processing of cases; (4) to provide
47 information and advice to individual victims; (5) to direct victims to
48 public and private agencies for service; (6) to coordinate victim

49 applications to the Office of Victim Services; and (7) to assist victims in
50 the processing of claims for restitution.

51 (b) Within available appropriations, the Office of Victim Services
52 may contract with any public or private agency for victim advocate
53 services in geographical area courts.

54 (c) The Office of Victim Services exists within the judicial branch,
55 and victim services advocates are judicial branch employees.

Statement of Purpose:

To clarify the distinction between the victim services advocates employed by the judicial branch and the Office of the Victim Advocate.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]